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JC14 Rec'd PCT/PTO 18 MAY 2005

Docket No.: 0038-0460PUS1
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Naoki ITO et al.

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

Confirmation No.: N/A

Filed: May 18, 2005

Art Unit: N/A

For: TIGHTENNING BAND

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

LETTER

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The PTO is requested to use the amended sheets/claims attached hereto (which correspond to Article 19 amendments or to claims attached to the International Preliminary Examination Report (Article 34)) during prosecution of the above-identified national phase PCT application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Dated: May 18, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

James M. Slattery

Registration No.: 28,380

#43,368

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Rd

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant

Attachment(s)

CLAIMS AMENDED UNDER RULE 19

1. A tightening band where both end sections of a metal strip-like band member are overlapped and temporarily held with the tightening band in a ring shape and a diameter of the band member can be reduced by using a tool to pull together inner and outer pulling claws formed on an inner band section and an outer band section so as to protrude outward,

wherein an upright portion formed so as to be erected outward, a stopper receiving hole, and a fixing claw are provided in that order from an end section on a part of the inner band section that overlaps the outer band section,

a fixing hole, a tab-like stopper formed so that a tip thereof is inclined toward the inner band section, and an elongated hole that guides movement of the upright portion are provided in that order from an end section on a part of the outer band section that overlaps the inner band section,

the upright portion of the inner band section is inserted into the elongated hole in the outer band section and the tab-like stopper of the outer band section is inserted in a cutout hole on a base end side of the upright portion so that the band member is temporarily held in a ring shape, and the inner and outer pulling claws are pulled together to cause the fixing hole in the outer band section to engage the fixing claw of the inner band section and the tab-like stopper to engage the stopper receiving hole, thereby fixing the band member in a state where the diameter is reduced.

2. A tightening band according to Claim 1,

wherein the tab-like stopper is formed by forming cuts in a lengthwise direction at an edge of the elongated hole on the outer band end side and inclining the tip toward the inner band section.

3. A tightening band according to Claim 1,
wherein the inner pulling claw is formed so as to protrude outward at a position further from an inner band end than the fixing claw and the outer pulling claw is formed so as to protrude outward between the fixing hole and the tab-like stopper.

4. A tightening band according to Claim 1,
wherein clamping end surface sections are formed on the inner and outer pulling claws so as to be substantially parallel with top end surface sections that protrude outward in an arch-like shape.

5. (Amended) A tightening band that is attached to a resin boot covering a constant velocity joint of a vehicle, where both end sections of a metal strip-like band member are overlapped and temporarily held with the tightening band in a ring shape and a diameter of the band member can be reduced by pulling together an inner band section and an outer band section,

wherein a tolerance correcting member is attached to part of the band member, the tolerance correcting member tightly contacting a tightened object when the diameter of the band member temporarily held in the ring shape has been reduced and deforming to apply a restoring force for causing inner and outer band ends to return relative to one another in a diameter-increasing direction and engage one another.

6. A tightening band according to Claim 5,
wherein an attachment concave section for attaching the tolerance correcting member is formed in the band member.

7. A tightening band according to Claim 5,

wherein the tolerance correcting member is a weather-resistant resin member that is equal in hardness to or softer than a resin material that is the tightened object.